IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification, to read as follows:

1.   Please amend paragraph [0044], to read as follows:

If IOP#1 210 has the forwarding information including only P1=0101101 and advises IOP#2 220, IOP#3 230, and IOP#4 240 about the forwarding information for P1, IOP#2 220, IOP#3 230, and IOP#4 240 create a virtual node corresponding to P3=010110 for aggregating P1, and add P1 and P3 to each aggregation tree thereof. In addition, the forwarding information for P3 is added to each of the local forwarding tables of IOP#2 220, IOP#3 230, and IOP#4 240. In this case, it is not required for IOP#2 220, IOP#3 230, and IOP#4 240 to add the forwarding information for P2 to each of their aggregation trees and each of their local forwarding tables, even if the forwarding information for P2=0101100 is added to IOP#1 210. This is because the forwarding information for P2 can be found based on P3, which is preliminarily stored. Forwarding table 217 is included within network processor area 270.